

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS GUIDELINES FOR THE OAR

- National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)
- Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations
- FAA Order 1050.1

Notice of Intent (Begins the NEPA Process)

- FAA publishes Notice of Intent in the Federal Register describing the Environmental Assessment (EA).
- Notice includes a summary of the proposed action and related scoping activities.
- Notice states the name and address of the FAA's point of contact for the EA.
- Notice is published as soon as practical after the decision to prepare an EA and before the scoping process.

Scoping (Public Involvement)

- FAA publishes notice of community meetings in local newspapers.
- Scoping determines the scope of the issues to be addressed in the EA.
- Determines the significant issues related to the proposed action.
- Scoping process invites participation from other federal, state and local agencies and the general public.
- Community meetings are held to educate and explain the actions considered and receive comments.
- Scoping determines topics that can be eliminated from the study in the EA.

Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA)

- Utilizing comments, suggestions and alternatives acquired during the scoping process a DEA is written.
- A Federal Register notice and local media notice that the DEA has been prepared and is being circulated will be made by the FAA.
- The announcements contain information on the availability of the DEA.

Public Workshops/Hearings (Public Involvement)

- The public and federal, state and local agencies are invited to review and comment on the DEA.

Final Environmental Assessment (FEA)

- Utilizing the comments through community involvement and the public workshop/hearing process on the DEA, the DEA will be revised.
- Every effort will be made to resolve significant environmental impacts.
- The FEA will contain all commenting letters and responses or a summary if volume of letters is too great.
- After careful review, the FAA will identify its preferred alternative.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- Based on the outcome of the FEA a decision will be made to either prepare a FONSI or an EIS.

Record of Decision (ROD)

- The FAA's decision regarding the preferred alternative is documented in the ROD.
- The ROD identifies all alternatives considered in reaching the decision, specifying the evaluations and analysis of the environmentally preferred alternative.
- The ROD states whether all practical means to avoid harm from the selected alternative has been adopted and if not why not.